(ii) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

(iii) Monthly, Village Health and Nutrition Day are to be organized by the ASHA, Anaganwadi Worker, ANM and PRA representatives.

(vi) The other Programmes launched by various other Ministries and Department are:

(1) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme).

(2) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers.

(3) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board.

(4) Targeted Public Distribution System (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(5) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/ Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign; National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.

AIIMS like hospital in Madurai

1418. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to construct an AIIMS type hospital at Madurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to construct an AIIMS type hospital at Madurai. However, Government Medical College, Salem in the State of Tamil Nadu is being upgraded under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

Use of nimesulide in the country

1419. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is among the very few countries where the anti-inflammatory drug nimesulide is permitted for paediatric use;

(b) whether the Drugs Controller General of India has asserted in an affidavit filed in the Delhi High Court that there is no ground for banning nimesulide in the country for paediatric use; and

(c) whether the drug was not licenced for use in some developing countries and banned/withdrawn from others and if so, whether India will review its earlier stance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The oral suspension of nimesulide is permitted to be marketed in many countries including India.

(b) The expert opinion of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, was sought by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in December, 2002 during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation. The recommendations of DTAB were filed before the Hon'ble Court wherein DTAB had opined that there was no ground for banning of nimesulide for adult or pediatric use.

(c) Recently use of nimesulide has been suspended in Ireland and Singapore. Nimesulide is currently under focused surveillance in India in the National Pharmacovigilance Programme. So far, no report of adverse drug reaction has been received on the use of nimesulide in the country to necessitate a review.

European Commission report on trafficking of spurious medicines

†1420. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Report of European Commission regarding growth in the trafficking of spurious medicines in India;

(b) if so, the charges leveled in this report;

(c) whether Government agree with the facts given in the said report;

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have contradicted the aforesaid report and if so, the basis for contradicting this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There was a news report pertaining to European Commission relating to counterfeit drugs.

Subsequently the report entitled "Summary of Community Customs Activities on Counterfeit And Piracy" was seen in the European Commission website. This report deals with custom seizures in European Union countries of various categories of institutes including medicines, related to infringement of intellectual property rights. Medicines from very small portion of the seized articles and some of that, a certain percentage, was reported to be from India.

European Commission was subsequently contacted for more details, but these have not been received so far.

It is to be noted that the report deals with intellectual property violation and not spurious drugs as such.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.